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LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

THE BOOKS AS MARKSMEN.

On my first shooting expedition to the Bontebok Flats, I was accompanied by a

soldier-servant who had gone through his

course of military instruction at Haid-

stone with credit, has passed all drills, and

was fit to fight the foe. He carried my

spare rifle. I left him in charge of the

horses, and tried to make a herd of spring-

bok. They took alarm and ran round to

within five hundred yards of where I had

left him. Instead of waiting till I got back

he fired without result. On my blaming

him, he said, "It was not a bad shot, sir;

I saw the bullet strike. It was only a hun-

dred yards short, and a little to the right."

Now, there were at least 200 deer in that

herd. I bagged nothing that day, and to-

ward evening met a Dutch farmer, followed

by his after-rider, returning to camp. They

had three springbok and one redbok on

their saddles, and these animals are not

nearly larger than goats. I found him very

friendly, and I told him I had not been

able to get within 100 yards of game all day,

though I had had considerable experience in

India. He said: "That is quite near

enough, I shot one buck at 500 yards; the

other was very near, only 300 yards." He

asked me to come to his camp, and told me

that judging distance was the great difficul-

ty, and having rifles properly sighted. He

pointed to an ant hill on the opposite side

of several ravines, and said, "That is 500

yards off," set his sights, fired, and the

white dust flew in the air. He pointed to

another in the opposite direction, and said,

"That is 400 yards," altered his sights

and the dust flew again. This rifle was

sighted at 100 yards, at which distance he

told me he had frequently killed single

deer. I bought it of him. There are

several reasons why the Boers were

what they are as a nation—without ex-

ception the finest shots in the world. They

carry rifles from boyhood all their

years, having no close season